

MARY CATHERINE POPE RICHARDS

Mary Catherine, daughter of John and Ann Dunstone Pope, was born May 14, 1852 in the little town of Redruth, Cornwall, England. She was one of a family of ten children. Her father died at an early age and as money was scarce, the older members sought employment away from home. Mary C. obtained work with a wealthy family named Vivian, acting as governess to three small children, two girls and a boy.

Her people were religious and belonged to the Church of England. She was a member of the "Band of Hope," boys and girls pledged not to use tobacco, liquor or use bad language.

While working for Mr. Vivian, she accompanied him to church one evening. After services were over, he was unable to return home at once so he said, "Mary, I'm going to put you in the hands of this young gentleman to see that you get home safely."

"I don't know him and have never seen him before, how do I know he will see me safely home?"

"Don't fear," said Mr. Vivian. "I know him and you will be perfectly safe."

Emanuel H. Richards accompanied her home. They kept company a year when Emanuel decided to go to America to better his circumstances. He asked Mary to go with him but she stoutly refused saying she wouldn't go to America for the best man on earth. He departed alone arriving in Utah in 1872.

He was a mining and smelter man. After working three years, he sent Mary C. the money to sail for America, which she did immediately. She arrived in Ogden, Utah on July 18, 1875 where Emanuel was waiting for her at the depot with a Methodist minister named Carver. They were married that day and departed the following day for Ophir, Utah. By way of celebration, the miners had arranged to set off some gunpowder. It was a bang up reception to her new world. Here their first child was born, a girl named Beatrice Vivian in remembrance of the people Mary C. had worked for in England.

She and her husband later lived in Bingham Canyon, Midvale and then moved onto their farm in West Jordan where all but the two oldest children were born. They became the parents of twelve children, eight boys and four girls. They lived the remainder of their lives on this farm.

Mary Catherine Richards died July 23, 1929 and was buried alongside her husband in the West Jordan cemetery.